

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Network comprising:

a plurality of nodes; and

a communications channel interconnecting the nodes for data exchange

between the nodes;

wherein at least a first of the nodes is at least one of parameterized and configured by storing node-specific data;

wherein at least a second of the nodes comprises a memory in which the node-specific data, for the at least one of parameterizing and configuring the first node, are stored;

wherein the first node, when newly connected to the network, is adapted to transmit the stored node-specific data to the second node; and

the second node is adapted to store the transmitted node-specific data of the first node in the memory of the second node and to transmit the node-specific data via the communications channel to the first node, for at least one of reparameterizing and reconfiguring the first node, if the first node is replacing a replaced first node or is resuming operation.

2. Network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first node and the second node are adjacent in the network.

3. Network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first node is adapted to transmit changes in the node-specific data to the second node, in order to update memory contents.

4. Network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first node is adapted to request, when cold restarted after the first node has been connected to the network as a replacement of a node of a same type or after operability of the first node has been restored following a failure, that the second node transmit the node-specific data to the first node, for the at least one of reparameterizing and reconfiguring the first node, via the communications channel.

5. Node for a network having a plurality of nodes and a communications channel interconnecting the nodes, wherein:

the node is adapted to be at least one of parameterized and configured by storing node-specific data,

the node is adapted, when newly connected to the network, to transmit the stored node-specific data to another of the plurality of nodes of the network, and

the node is adapted to request, when cold restarted after having been connected to the network as a replacement of a node of a same type or after operability of the node has been restored following a failure, that the other node transmit the node-specific data, for at least one of reparameterizing and reconfiguring the node via the communications channel.

6. Node for a network having a plurality of nodes and a communications channel interconnecting the nodes,

comprising a memory in which node-specific data for at least one of parameterizing and configuring another of the nodes are stored,

wherein the node is adapted to store in the memory received node-specific data of the other node and to transmit the received data via the communications

channel to the other node for at least one of reparameterizing and reconfiguring the other node when the other node is replacing a replaced other node or is resuming operation.

7. A method comprising:

storing data specific to a first node in a second node of a network of nodes interconnected by a communications channel;

transmitting the data from the second node to the first node in response to an event; and

utilizing the transmitted data in the first node to render the first node operational in the network.

8. The method according to Claim 7, wherein the event is a restart of the first node.

9. The method according to Claim 7, wherein the event is a start of an inserted, functioning first node replacing a removed, defective first node.

10. The method according to Claim 7, wherein the data comprise parameterization data.

11. The method according to Claim 7, wherein the data comprise configuration data.

12. The method according to Claim 7, further comprising transmitting the data from the first node to the second node in response to another event.

13. The method according to Claim 12, wherein the other event is an update of the data specific to the first node.

14. A network comprising:

a plurality of nodes;

a communications channel interconnecting the nodes;

wherein a first of said nodes comprises:

a first memory configured to store data specific to said first node; and

wherein a second of said nodes comprises:

a second memory configured to store the data specific to said first node; and

a port configured to transmit the data specific to said first node from said second node to said first node.

15. The network according to Claim 14, wherein said second node further comprises:

a third memory configured to store data specific to said second node.

16. The network according to Claim 15, wherein said first node further comprises:

a fourth memory configured to store data specific to said second node.